

April 5, 2006

Dear Chairman Gruenberg,

Just as Wal-Mart centers have had a major impact on local communities and business, so too will a Bank of Wal-Mart. If Wal-Mart is permitted to enter the financial arena, we will be handing them one more market to monopolize and exploit. This mega-bank will threaten community banks and ostensibly run them out of business.

As a resident of central Illinois, I am familiar with the role that community banks play for local farmers in our agriculturally rich area. These banks understand the local economy and the financial needs of area farmers and citizens. Wal-Mart's history of skirting the law and exploiting its employees is particularly frightening in a financial context such as this.

Finally, the sheer concentration of commercial and financial power that a Wal-Mart Bank suggests is unsettling. This smacks of the old-time "company store": work for us, borrow from us, and buy from us - forever. Our economy and country deserves better than this. We are a country of hard workers who deserve to be treated fairly. I sincerely doubt that a Wal-Mart Bank feels similarly.

I urge the FDIC board of directors to attend the Wal-Mart hearings.

Sincerely,

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